

OLIMPIADA NAȚIONALĂ DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ - ETAPA LOCALĂ

7 februarie – 2026

CLASA a VIII-a

Notă: Toate subiectele sunt obligatorii. Se acordă 10 puncte din oficiu. Timpul de lucru: 120 de minute.

SUBIECTUL I. – USE OF ENGLISH

40p

1. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (10 x 2p = 20p)

Alex: Hey, you look tired. What (1) _____ you _____ (do) after school these days?

Sam: A lot, actually. I (2) _____ (join) a photography club last month, and now we meet twice a week.

Alex: Really? How long (3) _____ you usually _____ (spend) editing your photos?

Sam: It depends. I usually (4) _____ (work) on them for about an hour in the evening.

Alex: That sounds intense. When I was younger, I (5) _____ (use) to play the guitar almost every day, but I stopped during exam season.

Sam: I get that. At the moment, I (6) _____ (prepare) some photos for an exhibition, so I'm really busy.

Alex: Yeah, time is always the problem. If I (7) _____ (have) more free time, I (8) _____ (start) playing again.

Sam: You should! By the way, next Saturday we (9) _____ (meet) at the community centre at ten.

Alex: Nice. Maybe I (10) _____ (finish) my assignments in time and join you.

2. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (10 x 1p = 10p)

- Why are cats such _____ animals?
- There are many forms of _____ you just have to find the right for you.
- My dad used to be a _____. He worked on a big ship years ago.
- The travel agency has very _____ offers for this summer.
- I read a _____ of all the new mountain bikes. This one is the best.
- Could you help me make a _____. I don't know which phone to buy.
- The _____ in this place is absolutely terrible. I want my money back.
- Even very good clothes are quite _____ in this shop.
- There are no further _____ for applying for this job.
- I always have my cell phone with me. I am completely _____ without it.

PLAY
ENTERTAIN
SAIL
ATTRACT
COMPARE
DECIDE
SERVE
AFFORD
REQUIRE
USE

3. Each of the following sentences contains a mistake. Find the mistakes and correct them. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (10 x 1p = 10p)

- There is a boy that it's singing in the middle of the park. _____
- It's important speak English well. _____
- I didn't liked the concert very much, so I left early. _____
- I don't have any internet excess in this area. _____
- I didn't tell them nothing about that evening. _____
- Mom made so much cakes we couldn't eat them all. _____
- At the party I met the boss of my mother, who was very nice. _____
- It was a film very violent and I didn't like it very much. _____
- She enjoys take part in debates. _____
- I'm very interesting in modern art, so I usually visit museums and galleries. _____

SUBIECTUL II. – READING COMPREHENSION

25p

Read the following text and do the tasks that follow.

(1) _____ *Stranger Things* was one of Netflix's first original series and quickly became a cultural phenomenon. Its title theme and 80s aesthetic are instantly recognisable, and the show has inspired endless discussion about its story, music, and characters. The series not only entertains but also played a key role in establishing Netflix as a serious producer of original content, influencing how streaming services approach new shows.

(2) _____ One major factor behind its success is the decision to release entire seasons at once. This approach encourages continuous viewing, allowing audiences to form deeper emotional connections with the characters. Unlike weekly episodes, which must focus on individual drama, the binge format creates a more cinematic experience, enabling the Duffer Brothers to tell a more cohesive, immersive story that keeps viewers hooked from start to finish.

(3) _____ Another strength of *Stranger Things* is its use of 80s nostalgia. The show arrived at a time when retro culture — fashion, music, and cinema — was experiencing a revival. Even viewers who never lived through the era can connect with the references, and the show bridges the past and present while telling a coming-of-age story. Its nostalgic appeal enhances the charm of the sci-fi and horror elements, making them accessible to a broad audience.

(4) _____ Beyond the plot, the series invests heavily in character interactions. Scenes between characters like Steve and Dustin or Eleven and Max create depth and relatability, even in the middle of apocalyptic threats. By focusing on personal moments alongside intense action, the show encourages viewers to care about the protagonists, amplifying their impact. This character focus makes the story feel more authentic and emotionally resonant.

(5) _____ Ultimately, *Stranger Things* achieved massive popularity through its combination of binge-friendly storytelling, nostalgic charm, multi-genre elements, unconventional humour, and memorable characters. It revitalised interest in 80s culture, influenced Netflix's original programming strategy, and created a devoted global fanbase. Its ability to entertain across generations makes it one of the most bingeable and culturally significant series of recent years.

I. The text has five paragraphs. Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-F below. There is one letter which you do not need to use. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (5 x 2,5p = 12,5p)

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Looking back to move forward | B. Why it captivated audiences |
| C. Revenue streams in the film industry | D. Setting the stage for a new approach |
| E. How character interactions enhance storytelling | F. Binge-release format enhances storytelling |

II. Find the best answer A, B, or C to the questions 1-5. Write the answers on your answer sheet. (5 x 2,5p = 12,5p)

1. Why is *Stranger Things* important in Netflix's history?

- A. It confirmed the popularity of 1980s-based television.
- B. It replaced traditional film franchises.
- C. It proved weekly releases were more effective than binge release.
- D. It helped establish Netflix as a creator of original series.

2. What is one advantage of releasing a full season at once?

- A. Episodes can function more independently.
- B. Viewers form stronger emotional attachments.
- C. It limits audience attention to details between episodes.
- D. More seasons can be produced quickly.

3. How does nostalgia operate in the series?

- A. By appealing mainly to viewers who lived in the 1980s.
- B. By accurately recreating historical reality.
- C. By connecting past and present, showing the protagonists' growing up.
- D. By distracting from weaknesses in the plot.

4. Why are character interactions important to the performance?

- A. They reduce the intensity of the plot.
- B. They support viewers' emotional investment in the characters.
- C. They replace the horror elements to make the film feel realistic.
- D. They function primarily as comic relief.

5. What best explains the series' lasting appeal?

- A. Its predictable structure and familiar genres.
- B. Its focus on visual style over storytelling.
- C. Its mix of bingeability, nostalgia, and memorable characters.
- D. Its exclusive relevance to older audiences.

SUBIECTUL II. – WRITING

25p

Write a story with the following ending:

'...but I closed the window, looked in the mirror and magic disappeared.'

Write your story in 120-150 words and give it an appropriate title. Pay attention to the following:

- You don't need to write long descriptions.
- Use dialogues only if they are relevant to your characters or events.
- You should use this plan:
 - 1. Introduction (paragraph 1 – set the scene)
 - 2. Main body (paragraph(s) 2/3 – develop the story)
 - 3. Conclusion (paragraph 4 – end the story)

Don't count the words given in the end!